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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Oschatz

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 10 to 13 December 1951

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 22 January 1952REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 13 December 1951, the Infanterie Kaserne on the north side of Dresdener Strasse, Oschatz (N 52/E 71), quartered about 1,200 troops, including some with tank insignia. All windows of the quarters were lighted that evening. Troops observed on 10 December included 200 unarmed troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets and drilled in the barracks yard; about 20 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets and practiced orientation by map; and about 120 troops who received close-order drill.

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2. On 13 December, the Fliegerhorst Kaserne west of Oschatz was occupied to capacity by about 2,000 troops, most of whom were recruits. The troops wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. All windows of the installation were lighted at dusk. Fifteen T-44 tanks, including Nos 525 and 580, and three JS-1 tanks were seen on the streets near the installation. According to a local resident, about 30 JS-1 tanks moved into the billeting area on 13 December. About 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets practiced entrenching and orientation by map on the training field adjoining the billeting area.

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- * Comment. According to sketches available, the Infanterie Kaserne referred to in the present report is a large billeting area on the north side of Dresdener Strasse, southeast of Oschatz, which, as indicated, in previous reports, was subdivided into the Infanterie Kaserne on the east, the Remonteschule in the center and the Ulanon Kaserne on the west. The present information is not specific enough to confirm the 8th Mtz Rifle Regt of the 9th Tank Div carried in the installation. According to another source, the regiment returned to the installation from the troop training grounds of Koenigsbrueck in mid-October 1951.

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- ** Comment. The observation of T-44 tanks indicates that the 23d Tank Regt was still stationed in the Fliegerhorst Kaserne. The regiment was last confirmed in Oschatz by another source until March 1951. Another source observed 10 heavy tanks with the troops returning from the troop training

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grounds on 16 October 1951. [redacted] 25X1A There have been no indications as to a unit with heavy tanks in Oschatz. It is possible that the heavy tanks observed were in connection with a tank repair shop believed to belong to the Fliegerhorst Kaserne. But it is also possible that the heavy tanks constituted part of the equipment of the unidentified tank training battalion which has been carried in Riesa to date but which may have been transferred to the Fliegerhorst Kaserne Oschatz. This latter possibility is supported by the consideration that the units carried in the installation, namely the 23d Tank Regt, a tank repair shop and the unidentified engineer battalion of the 9th Tank Div, add up to less than 1,500 men, whereas the billeting capacity of the Fliegerhorst Kaserne is about 2,000 men, thus indicating the presence of still another unit, even if allowance is made for errors in source's strength estimate.

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